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THE ANCESTRY OF BENJAMIN TURNEY

By Mrs. Turney Sharps
1936

THE ANCESTRY OF BENJAMIN TURNEY OF CONCORD, MASS., AND FAIRFIELD, CONN.

The following data on the Turney family are contributed by Mrs. Turney Sharps, of Fairfield, Conn., and have been arranged for publication by Donald Lines Jacobus, of New Haven, Conn. Acknowledgment is made to the noted English antiquarian, Frederick G. Gurney, Esq., for his great courtesy in communicating the results of his personal research into the history of the related Turney and Gurney families. Following the leads thus freely given, copies and abstracts of many records were obtained by Mrs. Sharps through the agency of F. G. Emmison, Esq., Clerk of Records, Bedford, England, and of Miss Helen G. Thacker, of 41 Philbeach Gardens, London S. W. 5.

The Turney family lived for several centuries in the extreme eastern part of Mid-Buckinghamshire, England, adjacent to Bedfordshire. Because they were yeomen of the wealthier class, and held lands from an early period, they can be traced more easily than most yeomen families. References to them have been found as early as the 13th Century, and one of the family—a “de Tournay”—was a knight of the shire, to use the old term for members of Parliament who represented county constituencies. A John Turney of Cheddington, Bucks, was named in the Roll of Writs and Returns of the Sheriff of Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire, 1333-34.

The parentage of Benjamin Turney is fixed by circumstantial evidence, but from his father the line can be definitely traced to James Turney of Slapton, Bucks, a Yeoman of the Crown to King Henry VIII, who died in 1519/20, and may have been son of John Turney of Hollingdon in the parish of Soulbury, Bucks, who died in 1502/3. We begin our account with the latter.

I. JOHN TURNEY OF HOLLINGDON

John Turney of Hollingdon in the parish of Soulbury has a brass in the Soulbury Church, which shows that he died 18 Mar. 1502/3, and that he had a wife Agnes. Unless he was exceptionally old at death, a close analysis of the dates makes it questionable whether he could have been father of James Turney who follows; but if not father, he was probably a brother or near relative.

Documents

1. Earliest known appearance in Hollingdon: Feet of Fines, Hilary Term [i.e. Jan. to Mar.], 8th year of Henry VII [1493].

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Purchaser: Jn. Turney; Vendor: Roger Lovet. Refers to land in Sulbury and Holyndon. [No. 11 in old calendar by Le Neve.]

2. Another similar transfer: Hilary Term, 14 Henry VII [1498]. Purchaser: Jn. Turney and his wife; Vendor: Isabel Fowler, widow. Refers to land in Little Holynden. [No. 41.]

3. Brass at Soulbury Parish Church, in the nave. A man and woman with half-turn to each other, laid in a small *new* stone. The man long-haired with loose flat-cuffed fur sleeves, etc. Woman with pedimental headdress, with long-ended buckled girdle, roughly ornamented, and with a very large tab. Inscription-plate with:

“Pray for y^e soulis of John Turnay & Agnes his wife
y^e which John decessed y^e xviiij day of March y^e yere
of oure Lord Mv^e & ij on whos soulis ihū have mercy amen.”

II. JAMES TURNEY OF HOLLINGDON AND SLAPTON

James Turney, born say about 1445, died 14 Feb. 1519/20, and has a brass in Slapton Church. He had two wives, Amy and Elizabeth, and five sons, from whom most if not all of the Turneys of that part of Buckinghamshire and adjacent parts of Bedfordshire descended. He had a sister “Elyn” of London, which is probably the surname and a form of “Allyn”; for the will of John Turney of Cheddington in 1534, whom we place as son of James, gave legacies to “Joan Elyn” and “Alice Olyn,” perhaps relatives through this aunt. James Turney owned lands in several parishes in Buckinghamshire, and also in Leighton Buzzard and Husborne Crawley in Bedfordshire.

His will, which we print almost in full, indicates that he was a man of great piety as rated by the standards of his day, and is of great interest for the light it throws on social, economic and religious conditions of the period.

Children (by which wife unknown):

- i. John, of Cheddington, Bucks. Will dated Dec. 1534, proved 21 Jan. 1534/5, named wife Alice, sons James and Thomas, daus. Elizabeth Seare and Jane, and others—[Archdeaconry of Bucks, Register 1532-1539, fol. 68].
- ii. William, received land in Soulbury, Bucks.
- iii. Barnard.
- iv. Thomas, received land in Leighton Buzzard, Beds.
- +v. Richard, b. say abt. 1475; received land in Hollingdon.

Documents

1. [Early Chancery Proceedings, Cl. 294. 87]

Complaint by Sir Robert Clifford, knight, and Dame Elizabeth his wife that “oon James Turney” holds various docu-

ments relating to their "Manour of Southcote and Lynchedale" [i.e. Linslade, the parish adjoining Soulbury on one side and Leighton Buzzard on the other].

Answer by James Turney: simple denial and claim for costs.

[Complaint was addressed to William, Archbishop of Canterbury.]

2. "Domesday of Inclosures" by Leadam, pp. 169, 170.

"Et dicunt quod Jacobus Turney nuper fuit, et adhuc existit, seisitus in dominio suo ut de feodo de uno mesuagio vocato Tornes (i.e. Torney's) et triginta acris terre arrablisi et arrari consuete, et cum mesuagio illo a tempore de quo non existat memoria locate et occupate, cum pertinenciis in Lyscome, Holunden et Brakynham in Comitatu predicto (Bucks) et sic inde seisitus decimo die Febrarii anno regni domini Regis nunc sexto mesuagium predictus prosterni et in decasum fore fecit, ita quod iconomia per edificia inde superstancia de terris illis eveniencia manutenere non potest, tenementaque illa valent per annum viginti solidos."

A free translation: And they (the jurors) say that James Turney lately was, and still is, seised in his demesne as of fee of one messuage called Tornes and 30 acres of arable land used to be ploughed, and occupied with the messuage from the time whereof memory does not run, with appurtenances in Liscombe (near Soulbury), Hollingdon and Bragenham (hamlet in Soulbury) in the aforesaid county, and being thus seised, on the 10th day of February in the 6th year of our present King, devastated the aforesaid messuage, so that the management could no longer be maintained, and the tenements are worth 20 shillings a year.

3. Upon the brass of this James Tornay at Slapton (north aisle) his effigy stands full-faced between his two wives, half-turned towards him. He is in civil costume, but with the Crown-badge of his office of Yeoman of the Crown. The costume is not peculiar in any other way. Inscription in black-letter:

"Off yo^r charite pray for the soules of James Tornay late yoman of the Croun to king Henry the VIII which decessyd the XIIIIth day of February anno domini M^cxix Amye & Elizabeth his wives who^s soules ihū pardon."

4. Will of James Turney. Proved in the Court of the Archdeaconry of Buckingham, 1519.

"James Turney—In the name of our lord godd Amen the Thursday next before the Fest of the Nativity of our lord godd in the yere of our seid lord godd a thousand Fyve hundred and xix^{ten}.

I Jamys Turney of Slapton w^{lyn} the Counte of Bukyngham

in the dyocesse of Lyncoln—Syke in bodye & hooll of mynd & remembraunce [etc.].

In primis I wyll & bequeth my soule to godd almyghty to hys Bleassyd Mother Seynt Mary the holly vyrgyn & to all the holly Company of hevyn and my body to be burryed w^tyn the Churche or Chyrcheyerd of Slapton aforesaid wher & in what place there godd wyll it schalbe.

Item unto [.....] Lyncoln, viij d.

Item unto the hygh aulter of Slapton for tythys or oblacions forgottyn [etc.] vj s. viij d.

Item unto every lyght in the Churche of Slapton viij d.

Item unto ij Torchys to be made unto the use of the Chyrche of Slapton aforesaid of the valor of viij s.

Item unto the Chappell of Byllingdon ij Torchys of the valor of vj s. viij d.

Item I wyll myn executors shall make or cause to be made suffyciently w^t my goods the Byrge called Slapton Byrge as son as it may be conveniently don in diew seasons of yers yerly untill it be don & fynysshyd.

Item [.....] unto the Chyrche of Slapton to be leyd in Reparacions vj s. viij d.

Item unto the Chyrche of Crawley in like maner vj s. viij d.

Item I wyll that a prest [....] schall syng [etc.] yerly duryng the terme of seven yers yerly togydd^r he [.....] to pray for my Soule, my faders & mothers Soules & For all Crysten Soules w^t all other myn Auncestors & Friends Soules & all Crysten Soules as ys afore rehersyd. And he to have for hys Sallary or wages every yerly for every hooll yere viij mares sterlyng. And he [....] schall syng & say all suche Townes & places wher myn executors w^t the Councell of my Supervysor schall thynk most best & convenyent.

And I wyll and betqueth unto the Reparacions & sustenacion of such xij Chyrcches as I have [....] in a byll wryttyn therof to every of the seid Chyrcchys vj s. viij d. to be prayed for of the paryssheners & Inhabytaunts ther of every parysshe namyd in the seid byll.

Item unto the Fryors prechors of Dunstaple to pray for me & my Friends and auncestors soules & all Crysten soules vj s. viij d.

Item unto the edyffyyng & buldyng or reparacions & [several words lost] Chapell of Woborn Abbatis vj s. viij d.

Item unto the maynteyning & upholdyng of a Chyrche [several words gone and part of the next line blank] by estimacion xv^{ten} mylys fro [three words gone] vj s. viij d.

Item unto the Fraternyte of Corpus Xpi in Leyghton Bussard to cum to my burryyng w^t their Ornaments & for all theys labours in the day of my burryyng towards the mayntenynge [....] of the seid Fraternyte xx s.

Item unto the Fraternyte of Seynt John Baptyst in Dunstaple vj s. viij d.

Item I will that the resydew or arrerage of my terme of Grovebury unto my wyff [*sic, verb omitted*] & to John my Son cyther of theym to take equally betwyxt theym theys parts of the proffetts thereof.

Item [...] unto Wylliam my Son & to Barnard my son all out (of) my termes of Chelmescott w^t theyr profitts takyng equally therof in like maner betwyxt them

Item I wyll that Thomas my Son after my decesse schall have my Tenement in Leyghton Bussard wheryn Henry Dyer dwellyth shall remayne unto hym hys heyres & assignes for ever, & I wyll his mother uppon that condycion schall take the profetts therof duryng the terme of vij yers to bryng hym upp w^t the same profetts.

Item I wyll unto John my son my tenement in Crawley w^t lands & meddews & pasturs & in the parysshe of Aspley Guyes to have to hym to [his] heyrs & assignes after my decesse uppon condycion that he schall kepe an Obytt yerly duryng the terme of lxxxxix^{ten} yers immedyatly ensewyng after my decesse to the valor yerly of xl d. [...] w^tyn the parysshe Chyrche of the said Crawley Fyndyng wex brede & ale & Chese unto the prest & to ryngers att myn own Obytt aforeseid for my Friends & me to be prayed for & for all Crysten Soules as for [*sic*—"far"] as the seid xl d. wyll extend therto.

Item I wyll [...] unto William my Son all my lands & tenements w^t lands meddews pasturs Rents & servyces w^t appertenaunces sett lyng or beyng in Sulbury in Bukkyngham schyre [...] after my decesse schall remayn unto hym & to hys heyrs for ever uppon condycion that he schall & hys heyrs & assignes kepe an yerly Obbytt ther att Sulbury aforeseid duryng the terme of lxxxxix^{ten} yers [...] to the valor of xl d. yerly [etc. as in preceding clause].

Item I wyll unto my Son Rychard a Tenement in Hollenden in Bukkyngham Schyre whych on Rychard Prentys dwellyth in and hath by my lesse, w^t all lands arabyll w^t appertenaunces therto for the terme of hys lyff so that after hys decesse it schall remayne unto John the son & heyer of the same Rychard Turney & hys heyrs for ever in Fe sympyll.

Item I wyll & bequeth unto Elizabeth my wyff a Tenement w^t appertenaunces sett in. Leghton Bussard behynd Leycestors, beyng Charter hold, to have to hyr & hyr heyrs & assignes for ever.

Item I wyll & bequeth unto Thomas my Son abovenamyd in redy money to be payd by myn executors xx li. sterlyng.

Item I wyll & bequeth unto every man & woman Chylde of my godchyltren to pray for me [*sum omitted*] in redy money.*

* At the bottom of the page here; part of a clerk's very natural remark—"more obits."

Item I wyll unto Barnard my Son in redy money xv li. sterlyng goode & lawfull money of Englund.

Item unto my Suster Elyn of London to pray for me xl s.

Item I wyll & bequeth unto the house of Nonnys of Berkyng to pray for me xl s.

Item I make and Orden the seid Elizabeth my wyff, John my Son & Wylliam my Son my Executors of thys my present Testament & last Wyll, & Syr Thomas Knyghton parson of Slapton my Supervysor of the same. And eache of the seid executors to have for theyr labors aboutt my seid Testament Fulfyllyng xx s. and the seid Supervysor to have for hys labor aboutt the premyssezs as Consyence schall requyer.

The Resydew of all my goods & catells not bequethyd nor wyllled and my seid wyll Fulfylled, I wyll & gyve unto my executors, exceptyd all my movabylls of howsold stuff & other goods w'tyn the Tenement whych I dwell in, whyche I gyve unto my wyff holl w'tout interupeion or lett, to have theym of my other executors aforenamyd.

In witnesse whereof Thezs were Wytnessys & present att the making of thezs present Testament & last wyll Syr Thomas Knyghton aforenamyd Syr John Huett priest Henry Waldok of Suthecott Thomas Marten of Slapton John Turney of Lynchelad and Henry Smyth of the same w^t John Tayllor of Suthecott w^t many others the day & yere abovesaid."

[Proved before the Commissary of the Archdeacon of Buckingham, 26 Feb. 1519 (i.e. 1520). In the margin: "James Turney—CCXLIII solv:"]

Notes on the Will of James Turney, 1519

Byllyngdon is Billington, a hamlet in the parish of Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

Slapton Byrge is Slapton Bridge.

Crawley is presumably Husborne Crawley in Bedfordshire.

Grovebury was a French religious house in the parish of Leighton Buzzard. James Turney had this manor also at farm, later held by the Duncombes, and under them by William Johnson.

Aspley Gnise is in Bedfordshire, about midway between Bedford and Soulbury.

The John Turney mentioned as the son and heir of Richard in the clause relating to Hollingdon is certainly the John who married Agnes Gurney of Broughton Abbots in Bierton (next to Aylesbury) and became the ancestor of the family which came to New England.

Barking Abbey: from which James held Slapton at farm, as did his son Barnard after him.

Sir Thomas Knyghton: his brass also is still in the Church. "Sir" was the common title for a priest who was a bachelor in arts, and is so used in Chaucer's poems.

In the last entry, the sum "CCXLIII" represents £243, an exceptionally large sum for the period, as it included only personal property, not the realty. "Solv." means that the fees were paid.

The house in which James Turney lived was that called Slapton Bury, destroyed about 1840 or before. It belonged in his lifetime to Barking

Abbey. The ground, which is close to the mill-pond, is very low and apt to flood. Consequently it was protected by the converse of a moat; by a low earth wall, just enough to keep the water away. This still exists, but house and out-buildings have long vanished.

III. RICHARD TURNEY OF HOLLINGDON

Richard Turney, born say about 1475, is a somewhat shadowy figure, but he received from his father in 1520 the life use of a tenement and land in Hollingdon, which at his death were to go to Richard's son John in fee simple. Richard probably died before 1524, when John (but not he) was taxed in Soulbury.

John Turney of Hollingdon, who died by 1540, great-grandfather of Benjamin Turney, was undoubtedly a grandson of James Turney of Slapton, and it seems reasonable to identify him with the John son of Richard named in the will of James, both because this John was to receive the Hollingdon land at the death of Richard, and because the name Richard was given to a son by William Turney, probable son of our John.

Child:

+i. John, b. say abt. 1500.

IV. JOHN TURNEY OF HOLLINGDON

John Turney, of Hollingdon, a hamlet in Soulbury, was born probably about 1500, and died by 1540. His will, which might have told us much concerning his family, was unfortunately recorded in a lost Register. John was taxed in 1524 and 1525 (see Subsidies of those years), and his widow Alice in 1542. His death by 1540 is proved by a Rental of the possessions of Missenden Abbey, dated 10 Nov., 32 Henry VIII [1540], which shows among the copyholds at Broughton (in Bierton) "Alys Torney wydowe holdith a messuage with certeyn londys yelding by yere—xxvj s. viij d." [P. R. O.—E. 315, vol. 405.]

The will of John Turney is referred to in that of his widow Alice, made 31 Dec. 1551, proved 16 Jan. 1551/2, which is printed in full below. Alice was widow of Thomas Gurney of Broughton Abbots in Bierton, Bucks, who died 1528-9. She was probably a Sheppard of Littlecott. She had several Gurney children; the sons were:

Richard Gurney, of Surecott in Linslade.

Henry Gurney, of Broughton Abbots; he had, with a son Walter of Surecott, a son Richard of Mursley, and other children, a daughter Elizabeth Gurney who married John Hickman and in her will of 7 Apr. 1603 mentioned Thomas Turney (her first cousin of the half blood, and father of Benjamin the Emigrant) and some of his children.

John Gurney, of Broughton Abbots.

William Gurney, of Surecott in Linslade.

Thomas Gurney, of Drayton Parslew.

It seems likely that John Turney was a widower with children when he married the widow Alice Gurney, and there are reasons for placing William and James hypothetically as his sons by a first marriage.

Probable children by a first wife:

- i. William, b. say abt. 1523. His name appears at Hollingdon in tax lists. It may have been his widow, Cecily, whose will, dated 24 July 1576, proved 21 Nov. 1578, named sons Richard and James, and daus.; she named James Turney the elder and Barnard Turney as overseers. When Richard Turney died in 1584, he made Barnard Turney trustee for one of his two daus.
- ii. James, b. say abt. 1525; will dated 25 Dec. 1584, proved 23 Feb. 1584/5; m. Margaret ———. He made Barnard Turney, senior, an overseer of his will.

Children by Alice (Sheppard?) Gurney:

- +iii. Barnard, b. abt. 1531.
- iv. John, of Stoke Hammond.
- v. Alice.

Documents

Subsidies

1. Subsidy: Extract dated 13 Jan. 15 Henry VIII (1523-4). [Public Record Office, 78/104]

Sulbury cum membris (Soulbury with its hamlets)

“John Turney in bonis v li. ij s. vj d.

Wylliam Torney in bonis iiij li. ij s.

Horton (a hamlet in the parish of Edlesborough, adjoining Slapton)

Bernard Torney in bonis xlvj li. viij s.

2. Subsidy 16 Henry VIII (1524-5). [Public Record Office, 78/105]

Parish of Sulbury

Johannes Turney in bonis iiij li. ij s.

Parish of Slapton

Domina Elisabeth Toⁿney in bonis xxx li. xxx s.

Malyn Toⁿney in bonis xx marcis vj s. vj d.

Thomas Toⁿney in bonis xiiij li. vj s. vi d.

3. Subsidy: Extract made 23 Mar. 1 Edw. VI (1547). [Public Record Office, 78/149]

Sulbury

De Alicia Torney vidua pro bonis iiij s. iiij d.

De Willelmo Torney pro terris ij s.

4. Subsidy 34 Hen. VIII (1542-3), precise date not legible. The list is for the third payment. [Public Record Office, 78/134]

Sulbury

De Alicia To ^r ne vidua	xvj d.
De Willelmo To ^r ney	iiij d.
De Ricardo Gurne	ij d.
De Jacobo To ^r ney	ij d.
De Johanne Go ^r ney	j d.

5. Subsidy 4 Edw. VI (1550). [Public Record Office, 78/164]
Extract for the Hundreds of Cottesloe made 20 Apr.

Soulbery

Alicie Turney in goods	x li.	x s.
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Bills in Chancery

1. Alice Turney, widow. Bill in Chancery brought against her by Jeffery Fowler "sonne & next heyre of William Fowler deceased." The defendants are "Alice Turney widowe, William Turney, John Hopkyns & Henry Rogers," "for syxe mesuages and two hundreth and fortie acrys of mede pasture & woodde set lyeing and beyng in Solbery, great Holyngdon and little Holyngdon" (co. Bucks.). [P. R. O., Cl, file 484, no. 50.]

(The Chancellor addressed is Sir Thomas Audley, knight, lord Audley of Walden, and the date is therefore between 1538 and 1544, but almost certainly nearer the latter year. John Turney, husband of Alice, was dead by 1540; see above.)

2. Bill in Chancery brought by Thomas Norcott recites that "the late Abbott & Convent of the late Monastery of our blessed lady the virgin of Myssenden" granted to John Gourney to farm-let certain realty in Broughton, co. Bucks, which said John gave by will to his son Thomas Gourney, and said Thomas gave to his wife Alice with reversion to his eldest son Richard Gourney; and that Alice entered into possession and "toke to husband oon John Turney," etc. [P. R. O., Cl, file 1041, no. 42.]

(This document is in very bad condition and illegible in part. It belongs to the chancellorship of Lord Audley of Walden, between 1538 and 1544, but internal evidence indicates that the document belongs to 1542-4.)

Will of Alice Turney

(Widow first of Thomas Gurney of Broughton Abbots in Bierton who died 1528 or 1529, and secondly of John Turney of Hollingdon in Soulbury who died in or before 1540. Full copy of will, Archdeaconry of Bucks, Register 1552-3, folio 153.)

Alice Turney

In dei nomine amen the laste day of December in the yeire of our lord god 1551 I Alis Gurney [erased, and "Turney" written above] of Holingdon within the parishe of Sulbery within the Count' of Bucks. wedowe hole of mynde & of good

memorie make this my testament & last will in manerr & forme followinge—First I bequeath my soule to god allmightie trusting by the merits of his passion & shedding of his presiows blode to have mercie & forgyvenes of my synnes & to attayne & have the lyffe everlastinge. Item I doe gyve & bequeath to the poor mens boxe within the Church of Sulbery aforesayd iiij d. Item I gyve & bequeath to the powre people x pecks of maulte within the parish of Sulberye aforesayd. Item I gyve to every of my godechildren within the parishe ij d. Item I will that my howsbonds John Turneys will be truly performed. Item I gyve & bequeath to John Turney besyds his fathers bequests a cople of steres bullocks a yerne bonde of a carte so much as is nowe remayninge therof ij quarter barlie ij shepe iiij platters of pewter Item I gyve & bequeath to Alice Tourney my dowghter besyds her father bequeasts ij paire of shetts, one of them beinge the best shett iiij platters of pewter a charger a candlestike a chafing dishe a hawnes gyrdell my best gowne a laten basen a coubborde. Barnard Turney to have the choyse my best kirtell & best table clothe a towell ij shepe a pane & skelet & quarter of barlie. Item I will that Barnard Turney my sonne paye to John Turney & Alis Tourney either of them xiiij s. iiij d. lawfull money & in recompene' for the sylver spones bequeath[ed] by their father. Item I will that my sonne John Turney & Barnard Turney my sonnes [sic] have the keping of the goods bequezed bequethed [sic] to John Turney & Alis Turney as well by their father Turney as by me & to empl[o]y the same goods to the most advantage of the seyde John & Alis their sister & the sayd John & Barnard to be bounden in writting to the supervisors of my last will to deliver the same goods at suche tyme as my supervisors shall thinke best for the bequeast of me the said Alis & the bequeast made by John Turney to John his sonne & to Alis his dowghter to be delyvered according to the will of John Turney their father. Item I give to Barnard Turne[y] my sonne besyds his father['s] bequeasts a basen which was his fathers [iiij platters—*erased*] a chafyngdish iiij platters a paire of shetts a table clothe iiij shepe all the standers of the howsse my shodde carte a candlestike ij sters bulloks. Item I give to John Gurney my sone one ster bullok, & a hecford bullocke a coffer that was her [sic] fathers iiij platters a paire of sh[etts] a ketell ij shepe & ij quarter of barlie. Item I gyve & bequeath to William Gurney my sone a coplee of bullocks iiij platters a paire of shetts ij shepe & ij quarter of barlie. Item I gyve & bequeath to Thomas Gurney my sone ij bulloks iiij platters ij shepe a paire of shetts ij quarter barlie. Item I gyve to Agnes Allen x li. Item I gyve to Humfrey Collyn a calfe & a shepe. Item I gyve & bequeath to John Collyn Richard Collyn & Alis Collyn either of them a shepe. Item I bequeath to the same Alice Colyne a bullocke & a posnet of

bras. Item I give & bequeath to every of the children of William Alen of Stewtley a shepe nowe at this present tyme being a lyve. Item I gyve & bequeath unto the powre people of the parish of Sulbery a cowe & the same cowe to be lett out ever more to heyre & the enereas of the sayd cowe yerly to be devided amonge the powre of Sulbery to be distributed yerly on the First Wendisday called the clensing weake & the cowe alwayes so to be encreased to the best advise of my executores & the honest men for ever more for the use aforesayd. Item I gyve & bequeath to Barnard Turney my sonne a feather bed a bowlster a paire of shetts all my hangings & paynted clothes hanging in the lofte & a paire of irne harrowes. Item I gyve to Richard Maple my servant a veyned [*calfe—erased; probably “veyned” i.e. weaned should have been erased with it*] cowe bulloke. Item I gyve to John Turney a Fatt [*vat*] of xij busshells. Item I gyve to John Gurney ij quarter barley. Item I gyve & bequeath to John Turney & Barnard Turney my sonnes ij gray colts, John to have the chose [*choice*] for the accomplishment of their fathers will of ij colts. Item I gyve to Elizabeth Roger[*?s*] my doughter a Russett gowne of myne owne wearing. Item I gyve to Barnard my sonne six quarter of grayne xij bushells of the same to be whea[t] & the rest to be barly & beanes. Item I gyve to Henry Gurney my sonne vj s. viij d. & every of h[is] children a shepe. Item I gyve & bequeath to Henry Roger' the yonger a shepe. Item I gyve to Barnard Turney & John Gurney my sonnes either of them a donncarte. Item I gyv[e] to Alis Turney my doughter my best curten for a bed & the same Alis to have my best pane of bras for the pane before bequeathed. Item I will that all other willi[s] beq' writting bering dat contrary to this present testament & last will to be voyd & of none effect. The Residwe of all my worldly goods & cattalls not bequeathed & this my will performed & the small expenses therof made & done I gyve & bequeath to Barnard Turney & John Gurney my sonnes & to all the other my children unmarried equally to be devided amongst them every one of them not maried like portion of the sayd goods not bequeathed. Also I ordeyn & make myne executors Barnard Turney & John Gurney my sonnes my full executores of this my last will. Also I desyre master John Bose Henry Gurney William Margery Henrie Rogers of Sulbery & Humfrey [*sic*] Schayle to be overseers of this my last will & master John Bose to have for his paynes vj s. viij d. during ij yeres to over se my children & every other of myne overseers xx d. a peece. In witness of this my present testament being present William Margery Humfrey Schayle Henry Foxe Henry Rogers & Henry Lovell.

The “probate clause” follows, stating that the will was proved at Whitechurch [Bucks.] on 16 Jan. 1552.

Notes on will of Alice Turney

1. The volume in which the will of her husband John Turney was registered is lost.
2. The word "hawnes" is a mistake for "harnes," and the reference is to a harnessed girdle, one with metal mounts of the well-known kind. Although the word might conceivably be intended for "haunch," harness girdles were common in wills of the period.
3. "Standers" means "fixtnres," sometimes "heirlooms."
4. In writing "her," the clerk momentarily mistook the name for Johane, i.e., Johane or Joane.
5. John Bosse of Bierton was a lawyer and lord of the manor there.
6. Of the Gurney sons, John was later of Broughton Abbots, and has descendants to this day, especially at and near Thornborough. William was later of Surecott. Henry was already of Broughton Abbots and was married and had children. Thomas lived at Drayton Parslow. The testatrix does not mention her eldest son, Richard Gurney. He had just died, leaving a son and a daughter, who also are not mentioned. They were already well provided for, as the sum of Richard Gurney's inventory shows. In spite of her silence, this son's recent death may have been contributory to her own.

V. BARNARD TURNEY OF HOLLINGDON

Barnard Turney was eldest son of John Turney by his second wife, the widow Alice Gurney. He lived at Hollingdon in Soulbury, where he was prominent to the end of his long life. He was born about 1531, and was buried at Hollingdon 12 July 1612. He had older half-brothers, about whom our knowledge is deficient because of the loss of the will of his father John Turney.

One of these elder half-brothers was probably James Turney of Soulbury, Bucks, whose will dated 25 Dec. 1584 was proved 23 Feb. 1584 [1584/5]. He named his wife Margaret; his son William Turney; his daughter Amye Turney; his daughter Elizabeth, apparently unmarried; his other two daughters, Emlin and Johan (probably married); servant William Jans; son John Turney (sole executor); Anthony Hart the elder, Barnard Turney, senior, Barnard Collins and Henrie Hopkins my sons in law, to be the overseers [Archdeaconry Court of Bucks, Register 1584-1587, fol. 36].

Richard Turney of Hollingdon in Soulbury was probably a nephew of Barnard Turney, and son of an older half-brother, perhaps William. Richard's will was made 13 May 1584, proved 10 Oct. 1584. He bequeathed to daughters Alice and Joan, who were minors, making Barnard Turney of Hollingdon trustee for his daughter Joan, and his brother-in-law Richard Wiggs of Leeborne in the parish of Mentmore trustee for his daughter Alice; residue to his wife Agnes. Among the witnesses were Jeames Turney, junior, Elizabeth uxor Barnard Turney, and Jane uxor Richard Collin [Archdeaconry Court of Bucks, Register 1584-1587, fol. 3].

The above Richard Turney was probably the son of that name mentioned in the will of Cecily Turney in 1576. She was almost certainly the widow of one of the older half-brothers of Barnard, quite likely William. "Cysley Turney widowe was buryed the xxvith day of Julye" 1575 [1578?] at Soulbury. The will of Sysley Turney of Great Holingdon in Sulburie, widow, dated 24 July 1576, proved 21 Nov. 1578, named sons Richard and James, three daughters, Alice Turney, Margaret Turney, and another; overseers, James Turney the elder and Barnarde Turney. Witnesses: James Turney, Barnarde Turney, Richard Collins the elder, with others. [Filed will, Archdeaconry Court of Bucks.]

It will be seen that Barnard Turney was popular with his relatives as overseer or trustee under their wills. He was named as father-in-law in the will of Edmund Stevens of Sircott alias Sucheate [*sic*] in Linchlade, 17 June 1603; Thomas Turney (his son) was a witness to this will [Archdeaconry of Bucks, Register 1602-4, fol. 41].

A Fine dated Easter 37 Elizabeth [1595] shows a land transaction between Barnard Turney and his son of the same name, relating to land in Wavendon, where the younger Barnard settled. A Fine was a form of legal conveyance of property, the plaintiff being the purchaser, and the deforciant the vendor, in other words, the grantee and grantor.

Abstract of the will of Bernard Turney of Holindon in Sulbery dated 25 Nov. 1611, proved 14 Nov. 1612. Unto the pore people in Sulbery & Holindone 40 s. to be geven unto them at my buriall. To Thomas Turney my sonne my house lands & leases in Sulbery. Unto Inocente Turney my sonne two steares & one cow bullocke. Unto Barnett Turney my sonne one two yeere old sterebulocke. Unto John Turney my sonne one little stere bullocke. Unto Joan my daughter one cow-buloke. Unto Alce my daughter one cove. Unto all my childrens children iiij s. 4 d. a peece. Unto all my servants that doe dwell with me att my decease iiij s. iiij d. a peece. Unto Barnett Web iiij s. iiij d. Residue to Eliz. my wief & Thomas Turney my sonne whome I make my sole executors. Witnesses: Jo: Cripps script', Thomas Turney. [Archdeaconry of Bucks, Register 1611-12.]

Abstract of the will of Elizabeth Turney of Soulberye, widowe, being by reasonn of my ould age, weake of bodie, dated 29 Jan. 1617 [1617/18], proved 23 Nov. 1625. My bodie to be buried in the parishe church of Soulberry (if it please god it may be so). Whereas Thomas Turney my sonne doth owe me fortie pounides . . . as may appear by certaine bondes, he is to pay £20 thereof to his fower daughters and his youngest sonne, viz. iiij li. apeece. The other £20 I give unto Laurence Buckney

my lovinge some in lawe (to be paid by said Thomas Turney in three monethes after my decease). To the poore of Soulberry xl s. as a perpetuall stocke for ever, the churchwardens to distribute the yearely rent, benefitt or profitt on Ashe Wednesdaye. Laurence Buckner is to pay the said xl s. to the churchwardens out of his xx li. Unto John Buckner one feather bedd & paire of sheetes. Unto Barnard Buckner one cofer and a pair of this [*presumably a blunder for "sheets"*]. Unto Elizabeth Buckner one kettle, a paire of sheetes & a redd petticoate. Unto Anne Buckner a kettle, sheetes, & a worsted kertle. Unto Mary Buckner fower platters, a candlesticke & my best gowne. The residue to said Laurence Buckner, who is appointed sole executor. I do entreat my loveing sonnes Barnard Turney & John Turney to be overseers . . . to each xij d. Witnesses: John Hopkins senior, John Hopkins jun., Edmd. Bolsworth jun. [Archdeaconry of Bucks, Register 1623-25, fol. 257b.]

Barnard Turney is stated to have married twice: first, to Elizabeth Sheppard, daughter of John of Wavenden; and second, to Elizabeth Meade of Bragenham in Soulbury, who died in 1625.

Children by first wife:

- +i. Thomas, b. say abt. 1560.
- ii. Innocent, of Surecott (or Southcott), later of Great Brickhill and Linslade. Children (incomplete record):
 - 1. Elizabeth, bapt. at Great Brickhill, 14 Sept. 1599.
 - 2. Barnard, bapt. at Linslade, 20 May 1601.
 - 3. Deborah, bapt. at Linslade, 1 May 1608.
- iii. Barnard, settled in Wavenden, m. and left issue.
- iv. John.
- v. Joan or Alice, probably m. Edmund Stevens of Southcott (d. 1603), who called Barnard Turney his father-in-law in his will.

Child by second wife:

- vi. Alice or Joan, m. Lawrence Buckner of Soulbury. [This surname is now usually spelled in that region in the form "Bunker."]

VI. THOMAS TURNEY OF SOUTHCOTT AND HOLLINGDON

Subsidy Extract made 7 Oct. 35 Elizabeth [1593]. [P. R. O. 79/217]

Linslade cum Surecott

Thomas Turney in bonis	iiij li.	viiij s.
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Sulbery cum Hollingdon

John Turney in bonis	iiij li.	x s. viij d.
Barnard Turney in bonis	v li.	xiiij s. iiij d.

The last two are, respectively, the cousin and the father of Thomas Turney; John the cousin, son of John Turney the brother of Barnard, was also taxed at Stewkley. At Slapton

their cousin Thomas Turney was taxed on iiij li. to the extent of x s. viij d.

The will of Henry Harris of Soulbury, dated 10 Aug. 1623, made Thomas Turney an overseer of his will; and in a list of debts owing by the Harris estate appears, "Imprimis to Judith Turney of Hollingdon, xl s." Quite likely this Judith was the wife of Thomas Turney, Sr., for three of his sons gave the name Judith to a daughter, although the name had not previously been used by the Hollingdon Turneys. [Archdeaconry of Bucks, Register 1623-5, fol. 2b]

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Thomas Turney was appointed executor and guardian for the three sons of Agnes Teagle of Surcott in "linchlad," widow, 1 Apr. 1604. He also proved the will of her late husband, Henry Teagle of Surcott, dated last of March 1604, proved May 1604. Henry Teagle had named his wife as executor, but she died before probate, so that Turney proved both wills as her executor. He was called Thomas Turney of "Sircot" in the probate. [Archdeaconry of Bucks, Register 1604, fol. 76b, 84b.]

Thomas Turney was overseer of the will of William Rogers of Holingdone in Sulbery, 2 Oct. 1616; also to the will of Richard Cokker of Soulberie, yeoman, 4 Dec. 1613. [Archdeaconry of Bucks, 1615-7, fol. 37b; 1613-4, fol. 10.]

An important reference to Thomas Turney is found in the will of his cousin of the half blood, Elizabeth widow of John Hickman. She was daughter of Henry Gurney, half-brother of Barnard Turney. Her will, dated 7 Apr. 1603, has this passage:

"Item, my will is that Thomas Torneye of Surcott shall have use & enioye to his owne behoofe my parte & porcion of a certayne messuage or tenement with thappurtenances scituate in Abbots Broughton in the Com' aforesaid nowe in the tenure and occupation of the said Thomas Torney for and during the full tearme of tenn yeares from the feaste of thannuntiation of the blessed virgin Marye last paste before the date hereof, Keeping the same in good and sufficient repayre, having Tymber sufficient allowed by mye Executor for the repayringe thereof, uppon condicion that he the sayd Thomas shall paye or cause to be payd to my fowre daughters Elizabeth, Jacquement, Margaret and Charetye, or to there assignes the summe of xx li. of lawfull monye of Englund," etc., with further long directions as to manner and time of payment.

The name of Thomas Turney accordingly occurs in several Bierton rentals until the year 1627. It also appears in several lawsuits relating to this property and other lands and houses in Broughton Abbots which formerly were part of it, but had gone to other branches of the Gurney family.

It might be supposed, from the appearance of his name in a

CHAPTER I

The first chapter of the history of the United States is devoted to the early years of the nation, from the first settlement of the colonies to the Declaration of Independence. The chapter is divided into three parts: the first part deals with the early years of the colonies, the second part deals with the years of the Revolution, and the third part deals with the years of the early Republic.

The first part of the chapter deals with the early years of the colonies, from the first settlement of the colonies to the Declaration of Independence. The chapter is divided into three parts: the first part deals with the early years of the colonies, the second part deals with the years of the Revolution, and the third part deals with the years of the early Republic.

The second part of the chapter deals with the years of the Revolution, from the Declaration of Independence to the end of the war. The chapter is divided into three parts: the first part deals with the years of the Revolution, the second part deals with the years of the early Republic, and the third part deals with the years of the late Republic.

The third part of the chapter deals with the years of the early Republic, from the end of the war to the end of the chapter. The chapter is divided into three parts: the first part deals with the years of the early Republic, the second part deals with the years of the late Republic, and the third part deals with the years of the early Republic.

Bierton rental of 1627 as still holding a lease of some lands in Bierton, that he was then still living. This is not the fact, although no record of his burial can be found. The bailiff, who lived at Aylesbury, was merely unaware that he had died. Upon the death of his father, Barnard Turney, at Hollingdon (buried there 12 July 1612), it becomes clear that Thomas abandoned his land and farm at Surecott to his sons Robert and Barnard, the latter presently moving away to Cublington and leaving the house to Robert, who was evidently the eldest son. Thomas himself moved to his father's house at Hollingdon in Soulbury, and he was churchwarden at Soulbury in the following year (1613), whereas in 1612 his son Robert was churchwarden at Linslade. The latter could not well have happened if Thomas had still been at Surecott. From the year 1610 his name in fact entirely vanishes from Surecott and Linslade, but it may be suspected that in the year 1624 (missing in the Transcripts) his burial may have been recorded. The last positive mention of him as living is that, already mentioned, in the will of Henry Harris of Soulbury in 1623, and it was the estate of this Harris which was indebted to Judith Turney of Hollingdon, whom we place as probably the wife or widow of Thomas.

The Subsidy list for 15 Mar. 1624/5 reveals the brothers Robert and Barnard Turney still at Surecott (Linslade), and Robert was again taxed at Hollingdon (Soulbury). No Thomas Turney was named at either place, and he was apparently dead and succeeded by his son Robert at both places. No other adult Robert Turney was living at this date in either village. Thomas Turney was therefore probably still alive on 10 Aug. 1623, and dead by 15 Mar. 1624/5.

Children:

- i. Robert, of Southcott in Linslade, b. abt. 1594; will in 1661, proved 2 Mar. 1661/2 [Arch. Bucks.]; m. (1) 11 July 1614, Agnes Ligo of Bencott in Wing; m. (2) Joan ———. Children by first wife:

1. Thomas, bapt. 2 Feb. 1617/18; of Hollingdon.
2. Robert, bapt. 29 June 1623; of Southcott.
3. Judith, bapt. 20 Dec. 1625; living unzm. 1661.

Children by second wife:

4. Barnard, bapt. 22 Feb. 1628/9; of Cranfield, Beds.
5. Mary, bapt. 18 Mar. 1631/2; unzm. in 1661; m. Richard Chandler of Hollingdon.

Another child, doubtful by which wife:

6. Agnes, m. Thomas Kent of Cranfield and Hnsborne Crawley, Beds.

- ii. Thomas, of Southcott in Linslade, will 1671, proved 1676 [Arch. Bucks.]; m. Philippa, widow of John Tokefield of Southcott. Child (a son Thomas and others d. young):

1. Judith, m. Edward Martin of Egginton, who d. by 1671.

- iii. Barnard, of Cublington, will 7 Feb. 1648, proved 19 Apr. 1654 [P. C. C., 286 Alchin]; m. Katharine ———. Child:
 - 1. Bernard, from whom descended the Turneys of Cublington, a prominent family of barristers, who used coat armor.
- +iv. Benjamin, b. probably before 1600; the Emigrant.
- v. A daughter, name unknown, but possibly Judith.
- +vi. Edward, bapt. 28 Feb. 1600/1.
- vii. Agnes, bapt. 1 May 1604.
- viii. Jane, bapt. 6 Oct. 1606.
- ix. Elizabeth, bapt. 24 Mar. 1608/9; d. in 1609.
- x. Elizabeth, bapt. 1 Apr. 1610.

VII. BENJAMIN TURNEY OF HOLLINGDON, CONCORD AND FAIRFIELD

Benjamin Turney, born before 1600, died at Fairfield, Conn., in 1648; married Mary ———. That the Emigrant was identical with Benjamin of Hollingdon is proved by the following evidence. The names and ages of Benjamin's children were appended to the inventory of his estate in Fairfield, and stated thus: Mary 17, Robert 15, Judith 13, Ann 11, Rebecca 8, Sarah 6, Ruth 4, and Benjamin 3. The births of three children, beginning with Rebecca, were recorded at Concord, hence the four older children were born in England. Since the ages were stated late in 1648, their dates of birth would be: Mary, 1631; Robert, 1633; Judith, 1635; and Ann, 1637. Now in Hollingdon lived a Benjamin Turney, and the Soulbury Church records show that he had a wife Mary and three children baptized as follows: Mary, 18 Sept. 1631; Robert, 13 June 1633; and Agnes, 8 Jan. 1636/7.

The first name Benjamin was not common in England at that period, but here we have a Benjamin Turney with a wife Mary and with three children whose names and ages correspond exactly with those of the colonist. (The names Agnes, Annis and Ann were used interchangeably.) Furthermore, Benjamin's family drops entirely out of the Soulbury register following the baptism of the child in 1637. Yet he had been prominent and a churchwarden there. Our Benjamin's next child, Rebecca, was recorded in Concord early in 1640.

Quite as impressive is the collateral evidence. There was a Joseph Turney who settled in Stamford, Conn., near Fairfield, where he died 24 Dec. 1713 leaving as widow a second wife, Mary (Bell) Hoyt (born about 1646), and an only son Thomas; another son Edward had died 11 Feb. 1705/6. Now in 1690 this Joseph Turney was appointed an overseer of the estate of Robert Turney, son of Benjamin, and it was therefore surmised [D. L. Jacobus, "Families of Old Fairfield," vol. 1, p. 619] that Joseph was Benjamin's nephew.

Edward Turney, son of Thomas, and hence putative brother of Benjamin, had a son Thomas who, in his will in 1695, gave a legacy to Thomas Turney, son of his brother Joseph. Here quite evidently is Joseph of Stamford, placed as son of Edward and nephew of Benjamin.

As for Benjamin's parentage, the above connection with the family of Edward Turney strongly indicates that he was a son of Thomas. We know that Thomas returned to Hollington, and was churchwarden of Soulbury 1613-14; and in 1627-8, following the death of Thomas, Benjamin Turney was one of the churchwardens. Search among other branches of the Turney family, at Soulbury and elsewhere, reveals no likely place for him. There is, besides this elimination of other possibilities, the positive evidence of family names. Robert and Edward, sons of Thomas, both gave the name Judith to a daughter, and that was probably the name of their mother, the wife of Thomas. Benjamin also, after naming his first daughter Mary after his wife, named his second daughter Judith. He named his eldest son Robert, after his brother. Both he and Edward named a daughter Rebecca. In Fairfield, Benjamin's son Benjamin, Jr., named his first three sons Benjamin (after himself), Robert (after his brother), and Thomas (which would be for his grandfather).

Children of Benjamin and Mary Turney:

- i. Mary, bapt. at Soulbury, 18 Sept. 1631; d. before 1674; m. abt. Oct. 1649, Nathaniel Seeley. He served as Capt. in King Philip's War, and was killed in the Great Swamp Fight, Dec. 1675.
- ii. Robert, bapt. 13 June 1633; d. at Fairfield, Conn., abt. Jan. 1690; m. Elizabeth Holly, dau. of John. He was made Captain of the Fairfield Trainband, Oct. 1685.
- iii. Judith, b. abt. 1635; d. abt. 1672; m. John Wheeler, bapt. at Cranfield, Beds., 27 Feb. 1624, d. at Fairfield in 1690. He was Sergeant of the Fairfield Trainband, and served at nineteen sessions of the Conn. General Court between 1657 and 1689.
- iv. Ann, bapt. at Soulbury as Agnes, 8 Jan. 1636/7; d. before 1683; m. by 1659, Thomas Sherwood, 2d, who d. early in 1699, son of Thomas, 1st.
- v. Rebecca, b. at Concord, 16 Feb. 1639/40; m. Stephen Sherwood, son of Thomas, 1st.
- vi. Sarah, b. at Concord, 11 Dec. 1641; d. probably before 1670; m. Matthew Sherwood, b. abt. 1644, d. at Stratfield, 26 Oct. 1715, son of Thomas, 1st. He was Captain of the Fairfield County Troop, 1690 and 1697, and had service as Deputy and Justice.
- vii. Ruth, b. at Concord, 28 Jan. 1643/4; d. in 1666; m. Richard Bouton, who d. in 1665, son of John.
- viii. Benjamin, b. probably at Fairfield, abt. 1645; d. at Fairfield in 1694; m. at Fairfield, 16 Nov. 1671, Rebecca Keeler, bapt. 9 Feb. 1650/1, dau. of Ralph. She m. (2) 21 Sept. 1699, Dr. John Hull, of Wallingford, Conn.

Documents

Transcripts of the Parish Register of Soulbury, Bucks

1575. Cysley Turney widowe was buryed the xxvith day of Julye.

1605. Oct. 6. Anna Turney filia Johannis Bapt.

1612. July 12. Barnardus Turney de Hollyndon sepultus fuit.

1613. Aug. 12. Jacobus Turney sepultus.

1613-1614. (During this year the Churchwardens of Soulbury were Thomas Turney and Thomas Tomkins)

1622. May 16. John Turney and (Marga)ret Stephens were married.

(Transcript in bad condition, date gone, but proved to be 1623)
(1623) Francis Rogers and Elizabeth Turney

1627-1628. (During this year the Churchwardens were Benjamin Turney and another man)

1628. May 22. Johannes Turney filius Gulielmi baptisatus fuit.

1628. June 28. Joycea Turney sepulta fuit.

1628-1629. (John Turney was one of the two Churchwardens)

1629. Sep. 23. Jacobus Turney filius Gulielmi baptizatus fuit.

1629. Nov. 1. Johannes Turney filius Johannis baptizatus.

1629. July 8. Robertus Wooddell et Sara Turney conjugati erant.

1630/1. Jan. 8. John Turney was buried.

1631. Sep. 18. Marie Turney y^e daughter of Beniamin was baptized.

1632. Oct. 28. Wm. son of Wm. Turney & Joane his wife was baptized.

1632. Mar. 30. Margaret Turney was buried.

1633. June 13. Robert Turney y^e sonne of Benjamin Turney & Mary his wife was baptized.

1636/7. Jan. 8. Agnes Turney the daughter of Benjamin Turney & Mary his wife was baptized.

1638. Aug. 19. Alice daughter of William Turney & Joane his wife.

1639-1640. (John Turney was one of the two Churchwardens)
(No further references to Benjamin Turney, but other Turney families continue.)

VIII. EDWARD TURNEY OF LEIGHTON BUZZARD

Edward Turney, proved son of Thomas, was baptized at Linslade, 28 Feb. 1600/1, and was doubtless the "youngest son" of Thomas mentioned but not by name in the will of Thomas's

stepmother Elizabeth Turney in 1618. Edward became a tallow chandler, of Leighton Buzzard, Beds. He was married at least twice, as he married at Chenies, 19 Feb. 1643/4, Mary Hull, and his son Thomas must have been by an earlier wife.

The son Thomas Turney was also a tallow chandler, and settled in Hemel Hempstead, Herts., where he issued trade tokens. The will of Thomas, made 11 July 1695, proved the following year, named his sisters Rebecca and Judith Turney, his brother Edward Turney (with children Edward, Elizabeth, and Sarah), and his brother Joseph (with a son Thomas).

Joseph Turney of Stamford, Conn., above mentioned, had sons Edward and Thomas, and his identity is clearly indicated by the will just quoted.

